

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 May 1962

FD-3
N. D.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Arthur James Ballelli et al - Unauthorized Publication
or Use of Communications

1. This memorandum for the record is prepared at the request of the Attorney General of the United States following a complete oral briefing of him relative to a sensitive CIA operation conducted during the period approximately August 1960 to May 1961. In August 1960 the undersigned was approached by Mr. Richard Bissell then Deputy Director for Plans of CIA to explore the possibility of mounting this sensitive operation against Fidel Castro. It was thought that certain gambling interests which had formerly been active in Cuba might be willing and able to assist and further, might have both intelligence assets in Cuba and communications between Miami, Florida and Cuba. Accordingly, Mr. Robert Mahen, a private investigator of the firm of Mahen and King was approached by the undersigned and asked to establish contact with a member or members of the gambling syndicate to explore their capabilities. Mr. Mahen was known to have accounts with several prominent business men and organizations in the United States. Mahen was to make his approach to the syndicate as appearing to represent big business organizations which wished to protect their interests in Cuba. Mr. Mahen accordingly met and established contact with one John Rosselli of Los Angeles. Mr. Rosselli showed interest in the possibility and indicated he had some contacts in Miami that he might use. Mahen reported that John Rosselli said he was not interested in any remuneration but would seek to establish capabilities in Cuba to perform the desired project. Towards the end of September Mr. Mahen and Mr. Rosselli proceeded to Miami where, as reported, Mahen was introduced to Sam Giancana of Chicago. Sam Giancana arranged for Mahen and Rosselli to meet with a "courier" who was going back to Cuba.

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